

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 34 and 50. Also, please amend Claims 27-33, 35, 37-39, 41-49, 51, 53-57, and 59 as follows. Appendix A (at Tab A) contains marked-up versions of those claims showing the changes being made. Finally, please add new Claims 60-71 as follows.

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27. (Twice Amended) A method of providing an identification of a group associated with a calling party to a called party, the method comprising:

(a) receiving a dialed number associated with a called party from a calling party, the calling party being associated with a calling party identification number;

(b) modifying the calling party identification number to an identification number of a group associated with the calling party; and

(c) providing the modified calling party identification number to the called party, whereby the called party receives an identification of the group associated with the calling party instead of an identification of the calling party.

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28. (Amended) The method of claim 27 further comprising receiving a service-specific code from the calling party.

29. (Amended) The method of claim 27 further comprising receiving a vertical-service code from the calling party.

30. (Amended) The method of claim 27 further comprising receiving an access code from the calling party.

02 31. (Amended) The method of claim 27 further comprising receiving a personal identification number from the calling party.

32. (Amended) The method of claim 27, further comprising sending a query to a service control point, the query comprising the calling party identification number.

33. (Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein (b) is performed by the service control point.

03 34. (Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein (c) is performed if a privacy indicator is not received.

04 35. (Amended) The method of claim 27 further comprising translating the dialed number to a called party identification number.

36. (Amended) The method of claim 27 further comprising determining a telecommunication carrier for the group associated with the calling party.

37. (Amended) The method of claim 36 further comprising routing a call from the calling party to the called party via the telecommunication carrier for the group associated with the calling party.

41. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 60 further comprising creating a billing record based upon the modified billing identification number.

42. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 60, wherein the billing identification number comprises an ANI number.

43. (Amended) The method of claim 27 further comprising providing a signal to the called party to indicate that an incoming call is associated with the group associated with the calling party.

44. (Twice Amended) A system for providing an identification of a group associated with a calling party to a called party, the system comprising:

means for receiving a dialed number associated with a called party from a calling party, the calling party being associated with a calling party identification number;

means for modifying the calling party identification number to an identification number of a group associated with the calling party; and

means for providing the modified calling party identification number to the called party, whereby the called party receives an identification of the group associated with the calling party instead of an identification of the calling party.

45. (Twice Amended) A system for providing an identification of a group associated with a calling party to a called party, the system comprising:

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a service control point operative to modify a calling party identification number to an identification number of a group associated with a calling party in response to a query; and
a signal switching point coupled with the service control point, the signal switching point being operative to send the query to the service control point;
wherein the service control point is further operative to provide the modified calling party identification number to a called party, whereby the called party receives an identification of the group associated with the calling party instead of an identification of the calling party.

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46. (Amended) The system of claim 45, wherein the signal switching point is further operative to send the query in response to receiving a service-specific code.

47. (Amended) The system of claim 45, wherein the signal switching point is further operative to send the query in response to receiving a vertical-service code.

48. (Amended) The system of claim 45, wherein the signal switching point is further operative to send the query in response to receiving an access code.

49. (Amended) The system of claim 45, wherein the signal switching point is further operative to send the query in response to receiving a personal identification number.

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51. (Amended) The system of claim 45, wherein the service control point is further operative to provide the modified calling party identification number to the called party if a privacy indicator is not received.

53. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 61, wherein the service control point is further operative to create a billing record based upon the modified billing identification number.

54. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 61, wherein the billing identification number comprises an ANI number.

55. (Amended) The system of claim 45, wherein the service control point is further operative to provide a signal to the called party to indicate that an incoming call is associated with the group associated with the calling party.

56. (Amended) The system of claim 45, wherein the service control point is further operative to translate a dialed number to a called party identification number.

57. (Amended) The system of claim 56, wherein the dialed number comprises a private virtual network number.

59. (Amended) The system of claim 58, wherein the service control point is further operative to route a call from the calling party to the called party via the telecommunication carrier for the group associated with the calling party.

60. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising modifying a billing identification number of the calling party to a billing identification number of the group associated with the calling party.

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67. (New) The system of claim 45, wherein the calling party identification number comprises the calling party's ANI, and wherein the identification number of the group associated with the calling party comprises the group's ANI.

68. (New) The method of Claim 35, wherein the privacy indicator comprises a privacy access indicator.

69. (New) The method of Claim 35, wherein the privacy indicator comprises a per-line blocking indicator.

70. (New) The system of Claim 52, wherein the privacy indicator comprises a privacy access indicator.

71. (New) The system of Claim 52, wherein the privacy indicator comprises a per-line blocking indicator.

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate Examiner Bui's willingness to conduct a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney on May 20, 2003. The following paragraphs contain a summary of the substance of that interview.

In the Advisory Action and in the telephone interview, the Examiner stated that the claims amended in the Amendment After Final did not place the application in condition for allowance because the claims did not recite the difference Applicants were arguing between the